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September 2006

The Official Monthly Newspaper of the Libertarian Party

Volume 35 / Issue 8

Smither campaign siezes unique opportunity in Tom DeLay's old district

THANKS TO THE ANTICS OF scandal-tarred former House Republican Majority Whip Tom DeLay, the Libertarian Party senses what one journalist described

as a “perfect storm” that could snare its first seat in Congress.

In early August, a federal appeals panel upheld a previous judge's ruling which denied local Republicans



■ Bob Smither

from replacing DeLay's name on the November general election ballot with another Republican. Days later, although he had formally resigned as Representative for Texas' 22nd Congressional district last summer, DeLay issued a statement in which he refused to allow his name to remain on the ballot, leaving the Republican line blank and only two candidates on the ballot: former Democratic Congressman Nick Lampson and Libertarian Bob Smither.

Bob Smither enters the race with healthy name recognition in this suburban Houston district. As an election analyst writing on CQpolitics.com – a site published by “Congressional Quarterly,” the authoritative source for information on Congress – noted, Smither “has drawn attention and praise locally for his efforts on behalf of

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Ohio Libertarian Party credited in eminent domain victory

IN A HISTORIC RULING, the Ohio Supreme Court unanimously held that the City of Norwood could not use eminent domain to take Carl and Joy Gamble's home of 35 years, as well as the rental home of

Joe Horney and tutoring center owned by Matthew Burton and Sanae Ichikawa Burton, for private development – specifically, a complex of chain stores, condominiums and office space

planned by millionaire developer Jeffrey Anderson and his Rookwood Partners.

Joe Horney, a Norwood homeowner and small businessman

who had fought the taking of his property, said, “It was long road to get to this point, but it was worth it. What really sits well with me is that this is good thing for every homeowner and small business owner in Ohio.” Mr. Horney added, “I want to thank the Hamilton County Libertarian Party and the Libertarian Party of Ohio, both of which have stood with us since the beginning of this battle.”

“Only the Libertarian Party and the libertarian lawyers at the Institute for Justice are working to defend these residents and homeowners nationwide,” notes LPO Secretary Robert Butler. “It's been a long, hard fight, but we're very pleased to see the Ohio Supreme Court reject last year's infamous Kelo decision.”

In a unanimous and lengthy decision, the Court laid out a series of important legal opinions. The Ohio Supreme Court

explicitly rejected the U.S. Supreme Court's infamous Kelo decision of June 2005, in which that Court held that local governments can take property from one person and transfer it to another because the new owner might produce more taxes or more jobs than the current one -- so-called “economic development.”

Second, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled that state courts must apply “heightened scrutiny” to uses of eminent domain, especially when the property is being taken for use by another private party; according to the Court, lower Ohio courts should not simply rubber-stamp decisions by local government to take property. Next, the Court held that statutes authorizing the taking of property cannot be vague. The “deteriorating” standard used by Norwood



■ Dana Berliner of the Institute for Justice defended Norwood residents pro bono

“is a standardless standard,” and the Court rejected it. Finally, the Court struck down Ohio's statute that allowed property to be taken even before an appeals court ruled that the taking was legal.

“This decision is a complete and total victory for Carl and Joy Gamble, Joe Horney, the Burtons and every home and business owner in the State of Ohio,” said Institute for Justice Senior Attorney Dana Berliner, who argued the case before the Ohio Supreme

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Georgia Libertarians kill \$145 million tax scheme

A GROUP OF LIBERTARIAN ACTIVISTS led an effort to stop a \$145 million sales tax scheme that would have funded a \$100 million county jail that is not needed. The tax would have been in the form of a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and would have extended a 1 cent sales tax for an additional six years.

James Bell, director of the Libertarian Action Network (LAN) and a leader of the Douglas County Taxpayers Coalition (DCTC), said the tax proposal was in trouble from the start.

“County officials failed to show a need to abandon the current jail (that had recently un-

dergone a \$7 million addition) and began to spread misinformation in an attempt to justify the project” Bell said. “Greed and addiction to tax dollars drove them over the edge,” Bell noted.

Bell said that DCTC is supported by a diverse group of Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians and Independents who had one thing in common – a desire for lower taxes and truth in government.

For six weeks, each Friday, a dedicated group stood at busy intersections displaying signs that read “Vote NO SPLOST” and “Better Schools Not Jails.”

“We spent \$24 on 2 signs

that were seen by thousands of citizens,” Bell said. “This was truly a grassroots effort. Without our involvement, many voters would not have known the tax was on the ballot.”

The anti-tax movement was also bolstered by concerned citizens writing letters to newspapers challenging county officials about the information being presented.

Mike Raiford, a libertarian activist and co-founder of DCTC said he was pleased with the outcome of the vote but warned that county officials will be back next year to try to sell the new jail idea again.

“Our thanks go out to all those

who repeatedly stood in 95 degree heat to get our message out to the voters,” said Raiford. “Without their help, the people of this county would be \$145 million dollars poorer.”

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Ohio eminent domain victory

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Court. "The Court stopped the abuse of eminent domain by Norwood and told Ohio courts that it is their job to enforce the Constitution and make sure that eminent domain really is for public use. Ohio has a terrible history of its cities abusing eminent domain for private development, and that abuse would have increased exponentially if the Court had ruled in favor of Norwood."

"This decision will set an example for the entire country," explained Scott Bullock, an IJ senior attorney. "Other states will look to Ohio's well-reasoned

rights."

For the time being, Carl and Joy will remain in their newly rented apartment in Kentucky, on which they have a lease for the next six months. Joy concluded, "We're just going to let this decision settle in. But finally, our nightmare is over."

"The Gambles deserved to win today and to get back what's rightfully theirs - their home," said Bert Gall, staff attorney at the Institute for Justice. "They've won this battle not just for themselves, but for every single person who owns a home or business in Ohio. They and all our clients

are true American heroes."

"A 1 - most one year after the U.S. Supreme Court's universally despised Kelo decision, the battle between ordinary Americans

and the abusers of eminent domain - tax-hungry officials and land-hungry developers - continues," said Chip Mellor, president and general counsel of the Institute. "Today's decision by the Court marks an historic victory for home and business owners across the country. But this fight has to continue. The Institute for Justice and our Castle Coalition are dedicated to making sure that owners throughout the country are protected from eminent [domain] abuse."

The title to Mr. Horney's home had been held by the developer, Rookwood Partners, pending the outcome of the Supreme Court decision. Mr. Horney stated that it was his understanding that the title would be returned to him immediately.

Asked what his next step would be, he replied: "Go home to my house."

The Kelo case has touched off a revolution not only in state supreme courts, like Ohio's, but in state legislatures throughout the country. Thus far, 30 state legislatures have passed laws giving greater protections for home and small business owners.

The Libertarian Party of Ohio and Institute for Justice contributed to this story.



■ Ohio LP Executive Director Robert Butler



■ LNC Chair Bill Redpath conversing with former Estonian Prime Minister Matt Laar in Amsterdam

Defining Libertarian Party membership

by Chris Thorman

THIS ARTICLE IS IN RESPONSE to a number of questions received at the national office regarding membership. With the changes in the last year and a half to the concept of membership in the LP, undoubtedly some people have been confused by our current terminology. Here is the most current information regarding Libertarian Party membership.

Membership can exist on at least three levels; the local level, which includes city and county parties, being the first example. The state level, which simply means a membership with the state party, is second. The third of possible levels is the national level.

Each level may or may not have dues and may have different requirements for membership as defined by their current practice or bylaws. Also, being a member of either your local, state or national party does not necessarily mean you are a member of all

of them. Please check with your state chair to your state's membership policy.

At the national level, there are essentially two definitions for membership. One is a person who has signed the membership pledge and has not donated at least \$25 in a calendar year.

The other level is a person who has signed the membership pledge and has donated at least \$25 in a calendar year. This is called a Sustaining Member and its definition was created last July at the Libertarian National Convention in Portland, Oregon.

Sustaining Members also receive a year's subscription to LP News and their membership counts towards the number of delegates their state can send to the National Convention.

If you have signed the LP's membership pledge at anytime and the national office has you on record as doing so, you are considered a member of the Libertarian Party. If you want the

tangible benefits of an LP membership, make sure to donate at least \$25 in order to receive LP News and have your membership count towards the number of delegates your state sends to the National Convention.

Should you have any more questions or comments, please send me an email at development@lp.org.

Chris Thorman is the Development Coordinator for the Libertarian Party.

DON'T FORGET...
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Libertarian Party News (ISSN 8755-139X) is the official monthly newspaper of the Libertarian Party® of the United States. Opinions and articles published in this newspaper do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

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LIBERTARIAN PARTY
LP News

LP NEWS:
A publication of the Libertarian Party

Produced by: Libertarian Party
Headquarters

EDITOR EMERITUS:
Karl Hess □ 1923-1994

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The Mission Statement of the Libertarian Party: "To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office."

ACLU challenges New Mexico ballot access law

THE ACLU OF NEW MEXICO and the national ACLU Voting Rights Project challenged a New Mexico law that makes newer political parties work much harder to put their candidates on general election ballots than existing parties last month.

Ballot Access News over-viewed the case in this manner: "On June 11, the ACLU Voting Rights office sued New Mexico over the law that requires qualified minor parties to submit separate petitions for each of their nominees. [The case is] *Libertarian Party of New Mexico v Vigil-Giron*, 06-615. The case was assigned to U.S. District Court Judge Martha Vazquez, a Clinton appointee. New Mexico is the only state that requires a new party to submit one petition to qualify itself, and then completely separate petitions for each of that party's nominees (who would have been nominated by convention). A new party

that wanted to run a full slate of candidates for all partisan offices would need approximately 250,000 valid signatures."

The current law requires new parties to gather signatures to petition for formal party status. Following this process, a second petition is required to actually place candidates on the ballot. Republican and Democrat candidates don't have such a requirement.

The suit also claims that the New Mexico law violates rights of political association by requiring new parties to seek signatures from independents and members of other political parties in order to appear on the ballot. According to their Website, the ACLU "brought the lawsuit on behalf of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico and several individual aspirants to political office." These potential candidates contend that the law will prevent them from running as Libertarians in the November

2006 elections.

"No other state in the country has such onerous and lop-sided requirements for new parties to participate in the electoral process," said Peter Simonson, Executive Director for the ACLU of New Mexico. "The law serves no real purpose except to protect the existing parties from competition and limit the options that New Mexico voters have for electing candidates with diverse political perspectives."

Jay Vandersloot, Chair of the Libertarian Party of New Mexico, said, "This law effectively gives people who are not members of our party the ability to veto our nominees. Why should Libertarian nominees have to convince Democrats and Republicans to sign petitions allowing them to run for office? Party status alone should suffice for them to get on the ballot. What's good enough for majority parties should be good enough for all others."

Vandersloot added, "This lawsuit aims to protect the voting rights not just of Libertarians,

tion] Party candidates."

If successful, the suit could allow New Mexico Libertarian



■ New Mexico LP Chair Jay Vandersloot

but also of any other new party, including Green and [Constitu-

nominees to run for office this November.

Libertarian Women's Caucus forms at Libertarian National Convention

AFTER AN ABSENCE OF DECADES, a women's group has formed within the Libertarian Party. Emily Salvette, LNC Regional Representative from Wisconsin and Darla Maloney, Missouri LP State Chair, reserved a meeting room at the Portland Hilton during the recent National Convention to gather women of the Libertarian Party to talk about issues of interest to women. Ruth Bennett, the Washington State LP chair, facilitated the meeting.

The women debated what direction the new group should take. "What we need the most," said one attendee, "is more women in the LP. We need to figure out how to make our party more friendly and supportive of women so they will feel welcome."

Several women noted how few

women appeared to be in attendance at the Libertarian National Convention and that few, if any, women of color were present. Only 80 of the convention's 346 registrants were female.

Concern was expressed that in many states, women are the "workhorses" -- doing much of the organizational and administrative work of local parties. With a decreasing number of women in the LP, some states are growing smaller and less effective.

"The first National Chair was a woman," said Toni Nathan of Eugene, Oregon and the first LP Vice Presidential candidate in 1971. The last female national chair was Mary Gingell, who served in the early 1990s.

Attendees agreed that mentoring younger women to understand the benefits of liberty is one way to encourage more female

participation. The group decided to form the Libertarian Women's Caucus and to concentrate on four issues:

1. Outreach to bring more women into the LP.
2. Encourage respect of women and women's issues within the LP.
3. Build and maintain a hospitable and welcoming environment for women.
4. Seek out interested and qualified women to run for the National Committee.

Additional action items decided upon were to approach LP headquarters about a Women's Section on the LP.org Website, using the pre-existing YahooGroups Libertarian Women

group to continue the discussion of the LWC and to develop an e-mail list of interested women to build an effective caucus to influence the National Party on issues important to women.

"For me, this is the best thing to come out of the 2006 National Convention," said Ruth Bennett, the interim facilitator. "When I look around at the delegates I see almost all middle-aged, straight, white males. That is no longer the face of America and if we want [the] Libertarian Party to grow become an effective voice for liberty, then we are going to have to change the face of the Libertarian Party."

For additional information about the Libertarian Women's Caucus, please contact Emily Salvette at salvette@ameritech.net or Ruth Bennett at chair@lpwa.org.

Newspaper supporting ballot access

The *Indianapolis Star* has developed a strong editorial policy in favor of ballot access. Mike Kole, running for Secretary of State in Indiana, alerted us to their latest editorial supporting Libertarians' right to run for office. Under Indiana law, if Kole receives 2% of the vote the Indiana Libertarian Party will stay on the ballot for the next four years.

The *Star* wrote, "The ongoing writing of new election laws, essentially more meaningless hoops to jump through, assures that some candidates will be barred from the ballot.... [B]allot access will remain an issue in Indiana as long as the state retains one of the nation's highest barriers to third-party participation."

Kole responded, "Unless the public begins to clamor for fuller ballot access, election reform will merely amount to increasing mountains of paperwork and bureaucratic snarl, which only prevents little guys from running. I am grateful that the *Star* has taken notice and is pointing out what Libertarians have been saying for years."

Additional information about Mike Kole's Secretary of State campaign is located at www.mikekole.com.

Candidate develops donation processing site for non-profits

Arin Sime, running for State Senate in Virginia's 24th District, has developed a tool to help not just his campaign but all of them. Sime is the founder of DonorTownSquare.com, a full service donation processing site specifically designed for non-profits.

According to an article in the *Charlottesville Daily Progress*, Sime was motivated by the frustrations he experienced trying to set up accounts with more estab-

lished vendors for the Jefferson Area Libertarians.

Non-profits and political organizations have special requirements and restrictions for their fundraising which often are ignored by vendors who primarily process for-profit transactions.

Besides several Libertarian candidates, Sime also boasts a client list including the Gloucester County Habitat for Humanity, the Nation's Missing Children

Organization, The Quaker Facilities Foundation and several other national and local charitable groups.

Sime seems as excited about the public service he offers as he is about making a profit.

"An exciting thing for me about this business is that it gives me an opportunity to learn a little more about all the great work that non-profits and charities do in my community and

around the country," Sime said. "If you want to help people in need, there are so many alternatives to government programs. I have seen through my business that Americans truly are a very generous and charitable people."

I'm certainly glad to have a number of LP candidates in the system now and even more glad to know when they choose DonorTownSquare without knowing a Libertarian was behind it!"

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Dick Clark running for Alabama legislature

NAME RECOGNITION IS IMPORTANT in politics and Alabama's Dick Clark (not to be confused with "America's oldest teenager") certainly has an immediate advantage in this area.

While Clark is the only Libertarian with partisan ballot access in Alabama this year, he couldn't be in a better place. Alabama State House District 79, which includes most of Auburn, parts of Opelika, and some of unincorporated Lee County, has a mix of southern paleo-conservatives, independent-minded academics, and those who are affiliated with the Austro-Libertarian Ludwig von Mises Institute. While there are liberals and neo-conservatives in the area, there is certainly a healthy independent streak, too.

The local campus group, the Auburn University Libertarians (of which Clark was president from 2001-2004), is extremely active, with multiple outreach events every month of the fall and spring semesters, as well as featured speaker events. Not only do the AU Libertarians provide a venue for Clark to speak to students, they are also a large group of activists who were vital to the success of his

campaign's combination of paid and volunteer ballot access petition efforts.

Clark is running against Mike Hubbard, the top Republican in the state legislature. On the Democrat side his opposition is Carolyn Ellis, the former Auburn University basketball coach's wife. While both of Clark's opponents are well known around the district, his campaign has al-

a stink about no-bid contracts awarded to Hubbard's media company which demonstrably cost Auburn University four million dollars," says Clark. "Hubbard is also somewhat vulnerable because another venture of his, a printing company, defaulted on a multimillion dollar loan and cost a community bank some serious money."

According to Clark, Carolyn Ellis is not generally considered to be a serious candidate and has no real platform to note.

Clark's home church is the largest in the Opelika-Auburn area and his pastor, a former Republican activist prior to his entering the ministry, has asked him to participate in a voter forum at the church.

Clark has already completed a live television interview, three radio interviews and a dozen newspaper interviews related to his campaign. Several of his letters-to-the-editor have also made it onto the editorial page of the local daily paper.

With ballot access petitioning out of the way and a good start on earned media, Clark is now focused on fundraising for additional signs, stickers and paid media. You can learn more about Dick Clark at his campaign Website at CitizenClark.com.



■ Dick Clark isn't afraid to trade his suit for a T-shirt to help out with campaign grunt work

ready done well with respect to early media coverage.

"There was a fiery primary race on the Republican side of the aisle, with challenger Jim Phillips losing decisively to incumbent Hubbard, but not before raising

What's in a name? A lot, says Cherry

ON MONDAY AUGUST 21ST, a pre-recorded radio interview with Georgia Public Service Commissioner Stan Wise (R) was aired on WLYU 100.9 FM in Lyons GA. "What is Goin' On" host, Wilson Smith, asked Wise about the PSC race and his opponents. Wise acknowledged he had two opponents, including Libertarian candidate Kevin Cherry.

During the interview, Wilson Smith told Stan Wise, "The more I talk to the libertarians, the more I like them."

Stan Wise blurted out an absurd claim that he is "a better libertarian" than the Libertarian candidate!

Kevin Cherry, the real libertarian candidate, found his claims amusing and insulting.

"Stan Wise must be suffering

from an identity crisis," Cherry said. "Stan is a big government Republican who supports protecting regulated monopolies; libertarians believe in free market solutions, not government controlled industries."

Cherry said he was flattered Stan wants to be associated with libertarianism but pointed out if Wise wants to be a libertarian he should join the Libertarian Party.

Trevor Southerland, Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of Georgia, said he welcomes both Democrats and Republicans to join our Party.

"The two major parties have moved to the extreme fringes, while the Libertarian Party is still in the mainstream middle," Southerland said. "Kevin Cherry is the real deal. He has been a member of the Libertarian Party

since the 1980's. Kevin has been a leader in his community and has led the Douglas County Libertarian Party."

Under Kevin Cherry's leadership, the Libertarian Party was first to author and introduce eminent domain/property rights legislation (HR-87) to the Georgia General Assembly.

The Libertarian Party of Georgia has secured ballot access to state-wide races since the 1980's.

Want to help LP candidates without spending a dime?

BallotBase.org

Electing Libertarians to public office.

Political analyst takes note of David Nolan's congressional race

IN JULY, Libertarian Party founder David Nolan was featured by one of Tucson's prominent political columnists. Nolan has entered into one of this year's most hotly contested House races.

A Tucson Citizen column reported that Nolan's entry is not "intended as symbolic gesture by the man who created the nation's most successful and enduring third party."

Nolan knows he faces an uphill battle, but remains undeterred: "I think it's a very long shot

that I can win, but I think we'll have something to say about the balance of power," said Nolan,

62. "We're going to become a factor to be reckoned with. We're looking at getting concessions from one [of] the other candidates to treat our issues with sincerity."

Nolan is in this congressional race to make sure the voters of southern Arizona

hear his Libertarian message: "We just want to see a general reduction in the size, cost and scope of federal government," Nolan said.



■ LP co-founder David Nolan



■ Ohio gubernatorial candidate Bill Peirce (pronounced "purse") cracks some one-liners at Cleveland's Improv

Laughing all the way to the Governor's Mansion

BILL PEIRCE HOSTED A PACKED-HOUSE FUNDRAISER for his campaign for Ohio governor on July 31st at Cleveland's Improv Comedy Club. Touted as an under-cutting way to attract supporters in direct contrast to the \$1,000-per-rubbery-chicken-plate fundraisers held by Republican Ken Blackwell and Democrat Ted Strickland, Peirce hailed the event as a "huge success" with "several hundred people" showing up. Former LP presidential hopeful Gary Nolan also offered his support and rallied contributions from the crowd.

In the spirit of the evening, Bill cracked a few zingers himself and his platform resonated with Libertarians and non-Libertarians alike. The show was headlined "Laughing for Liberty" and it

lobbed sharp wit and jokes across both sides of the aisle, from the recent "Coingate" scandal to the disturbing collusive nature of Democrats from losing races getting huge contracts awarded from their pals in the Republican Party. Peirce himself noted the odd irony saying "to the victor goes the spoils, but to the losers go ten times as much? What's going on?"

The Peirce campaign has been heavily tailoring its outreach towards Ohio's urban areas and young voters, luring them in with unconventional venues, more fun-oriented political volunteerism where other young voters are. His clear message that he is in the race to win and become Ohio's first Libertarian governor.

You can learn more at his website: peirceforohio.com.

Smither's campaign takes off in Texas' 22nd Congressional District

Continued from Page 1

missing children: He co-founded the Laura Recovery Center — an organization based in his hometown of Friendswood, Texas, that aids in the search for and return of missing children.”

The CQ analyst summed up what many observers were quickly beginning to recognize: that Libertarian Bob Smither, thanks to his long history of community service, “may present a more viable choice in his own right than most alternative party candidates,” who offers voters “a ready option on the general election ballot” who prefer not to vote for the Democrat, but who are wary of a complicated write-in procedure.

A host of other factors point to why the Libertarian Party has a unique opportunity in Texas 22. Voters in this district are not unfamiliar with libertarian ideas. In fact, portions of this district repeatedly re-elected libertarian Republican Ron Paul — the LP’s 1988 presidential nominee — to Congress before the recent round of redistricting. Rep. Paul’s current district shares a border with Texas 22. Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson — a statewide elected official affiliated with the Republican Liberty Caucus — urged local Republicans to forgo a likely losing write-in effort and to consider throwing their support behind Bob Smither, instead. Former Republican Congressman Bob Barr, a featured speaker at this

year’s LP convention, endorsed Smither, too.

Smither’s indisputable impact on this race has not eluded the major media. In addition to CQpolitics.com, *Roll Call* and the *National Journal*’s “House Race Hotline” reinforced the fact that Libertarian Smither can not be ignored to its influential readership base of journalists, campaign professionals and PAC directors. National media, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*’s John Fund picked up on Smither’s newly propitious prospects. Activity from the Smither campaign made every dispatch on this race from Texas’ top political reporters — including those from *The Houston Chronicle*, *The Austin American-Statesman* and the widely-distributed Texas Associated Press wire.

The excitement generated by Bob Smither’s potential in this race spilled over from within the Libertarian Party and out into the wider libertarian movement. *Reason*, the libertarian answer to *The New Republic* and *National Review*, posted no less than two Smither campaign-themed articles on its website and three items on its blog, “Hit & Run.” Posts on blogs that linked to the *Reason* items indicate that libertarians with little or no previous record of LP activism are starting to become inspired by this opportunity.

With the district’s Republicans in disarray over what strategy to take, the Smither campaign jumped into action, reaching out to the Republican base in this district.

A call was issued, and LP volunteers responded. The Libertarian Party fired up the still-developing LP Ballot Base and Libertarians made nearly 2000 calls to Republican base voters in Texas 22 with a two-pronged message: Our callers underscored how a complicated write-in campaign would likely fail and emphasized that Bob Smither, a community leader, will be on the ballot and offers the best chance to keep this district in the hands of a fiscal conservative.

The response our callers heard from voters was so encouraging, it motivated our callers to stay on

the phones. The voters our Libertarian volunteers spoke with not only evidenced a lack of enthusiasm for a confusing write-in process, but many told us how they knew of Bob Smither and admired his work on behalf of recovering missing children. A number of voters had already

heard he was running, and said that they were already likely to support him. Others thanked our volunteers for the information and expressed how that since they now know that Bob Smither will be on the ballot and the Republicans will not, they are seriously considering voting Libertarian. When an informal “gathering” of Republican precinct chairs in Texas 22 was held to determine how to proceed to Election Day, Bob Smither and his supporters were there with push cards touting his endorsements and highlighting his fiscally conservative credentials.

Media reports that Bob Smither was making inroads with Texas 22 voters were confirmed when both the Democrats and Republicans made abrupt shifts in campaign strategy as they attempted to stave off Smither’s momentum.

Shortly after election officials confirmed that only Libertarian and missing children’s advocate Bob Smither would face his name on November’s ballot, Democratic Lampson hit the airwaves with commercials touting his role in founding the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children. In fact, it was Smither’s activism

on behalf of this issue in Houston that prompted Lampson to found the caucus.

Even more shocking, the online community newspaper “Fort Bend Now” reported that Tom DeLay himself made an unexpected appearance at the meeting of Republican precinct chairs to

Smither responded by telling a *Washington Times* reporter, “That’s a vicious lie,” but was quick to add a gracious note, expressing his appreciation for the “multiple precinct chairs that have contacted me indicating some support,” as well as thanking “those precinct chairs that chose to ignore Mr. DeLay’s lie.”

And, while Bob Smither was rightfully outraged by such DeLay’s whisper campaign, it certainly is noteworthy that one of the most powerful politicians in America took the time and trouble to spread rumors in an effort to stymie a Libertarian opponent’s surge. Just as notable was an email message sent from the Lampson campaign to supporters reporting that DeLay and his allies had “viciously slandered the Libertarian candidate who is primarily known in our community as an advocate for protecting

children from violent crime.” The message they are sending is clear: the Democrats and Republicans are taking our Libertarian candidate seriously.

The write-in candidate that a number of Republican leaders are promoting is Houston City Council member Shelley Sekula-Gibbs. Compounding the fact that a name like Sekula-Gibbs isn’t easily memorable, writing in names on the new eSlate electronic voting machines unveiled this year promises to be even more challenging considering the fact that the computerized write-in mechanism doesn’t offer a hyphen character.

As University of Houston
See Smither Page 6

“With the departure of Tom DeLay, it is important to do everything we can to ensure the 22d District continues to be represented by a conservative. Bob Smither is that conservative. Bob is a genuine fiscal conservative with a firm desire to see a return to constitutionally-limited government as intended by our Founding Fathers. Write-in campaigns rarely succeed, and that is also why I ask that you join me in supporting Bob Smither as the only candidate who can defeat the liberal Nick Lampson.”
--former US Representative Bob Barr (R), Georgia

“I am very happy to support Bob Smither for Congress. He is the only choice in this race for ethical, fiscally responsible, and constitutional government.”
--Patrick Dixon (L), City Council, Lago Vista, Texas

“Republicans must focus solely on one issue. Does a write in campaign have a chance of success? I don’t believe that it does, and therefore we should consider supporting Bob Smither. Nick Lampson could be the one vote that elects Nancy Pelosi as Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives. Bob Smither will vote for a Republican Speaker.”
--Jerry Patterson (R), Texas Land Commissioner

Online Resources for LP Members

- Find contact info for your state Libertarian Party or your State Chair
Visit: www.LP.org
Click on: Organization
Click on: State Parties
Click on: [Your state]
- Find contact info for the National Committee
Visit: www.LP.org
Click on: Organization
Click on: LNC Directory
- Renew your membership
Visit: www.LP.org
Click on: Membership
Click on: Renew your membership or subscription

CAMPAIGN TRAIL**Hess endorsed by professional wrestler**

SEAN MORLEY, better known as Val Venis of the World Wrestling Federation, recently endorsed Barry Hess in his race for Governor of Arizona.

“As a dedicated freedom loving libertarian I am proud and honored to endorse Libertarian candidate Barry Hess in his quest to become Governor of Arizona,” Morley said in his endorsement.

The complete video of the endorsement is available at www.hessforgovernor.com.

Smither campaign

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political scientist Dick Murray opined to more than one news outlet, a Libertarian would stand to pull in at least 15% by just running as a paper candidate under these circumstances. An analysis of recent election returns confirms that this number may actually be approaching 20%, based on previous Libertarian performance in this district where an LP candidate faced a major party opponent in a head-to-head match-up. Given Smither’s local notoriety and the excitement he is generating from Libertarians – and libertarians – nationally, his base is likely even greater.

Election handicappers had placed this race in the “toss up” column when this contest was still a DeLay vs. Lampson race. However, without DeLay’s unpopularity to run against, Lampson sinks back closer to this district’s 35% Democratic performance base. And although the highly respected election analyst Charlie Cook handicaps this district at R +15 (Republican base performance plus 15%), few think that a burdensome and under-funded write-in campaign starts out at anywhere near that number. All indications are that this is a three way race. Mr. Smither really can go to Washington.

Update: Shortly before LP News went to press, Republican Gov. Rick Perry, locked in a tough re-election battle, called a belated special election to fill DeLay’s unexpired term. Local media immediately covered the Libertarian and Democratic responses to Perry’s last minute call for a special election. Smither’s campaign announced that he will be running in the special, as well as the general, election.

Phil Maymin: Libertarian from the Constitution State

PHIL MAYMIN is running for U.S. Congress on the Libertarian ticket in Connecticut and is the only Libertarian candidate running for federal office in the Constitution State.

Maymin’s campaign has already had some influence. They’ve had more than 20 articles written specifically about the campaign and been interviewed with half a dozen radio stations, including one 20-minute inter-

view that you can listen to on their campaign website. They’ve been covered by local television, trade journals and the front page of a newspaper five times.

Maymin’s campaign has already influenced the opposition. Maymin is running against Shays/Farrell. Shays is the ten-term incumbent Republican and Farrell is the two-time Democratic challenger. When it was announced that Maymin had broken through the ballot barriers

with a successful petition drive and were officially on the ballot, Farrell’s campaign manager said, “I’m not surprised the Libertarians have a candidate here... People are committed to change – they’re passionate about it. This is a referendum on the status quo.” Indeed it is. And Farrell is part of that status quo.

In August, the campaign issued a position paper on Iraq, describing how Iraq was becoming a Communist country,

why setting a specific date for a deadline would ensure American safety and Iraqi stability and why that date should be July 4 of next year. Libertarian Phil Maymin immediately became the only candidate in the race to call for a deadline. Both Shays and Farrell opposed it at the time.

Yet within three days, Shays had flip-flopped. For the first time in the 1,245 days since the invasion began, Shays said he would now favor a timeline. In his statements to the press, he used Maymin’s phrases and arguments nearly verbatim. Maymin campaign position papers are online at www.MayminForCongress.com. Compare for yourself between Shays’ remarks and Maymin’s. Bear in mind that Maymin emailed his position paper to Shays/Farrell and challenged them to debate the issue three days before Shays changed position.

Maymin often refers to his opponents as Shays/Farrell because there is not much difference between them. Shays/Farrell ran against each other in 2004 and Shays barely won. Would it have made a difference if he’d lost?

Shays/Farrell increase tax revenue, spending, and debt. Farrell increased her town’s debt by 600%. Shays has watched the federal debt increase by 250% from the time he took office.

Even their stance on Iraq is not that different. Both would have voted, as virtually every politician of both ruling parties did, to allow the Iraqi invasion, though Farrell has said she would have waited for the UN to support it first, which from a Libertarian point of view, is even worse. Both want a gradual pullout of troops now based on achievable benchmarks.

Shays/Farrell are as different from each other as night and later that night.

Maymin would have voted to cut spending, decrease the debt, and slash taxes. And Maymin would not have voted to go into Iraq in the first place. But you know all that already, because Maymin is a Libertarian, and, unlike “Republican” or “Democrat,” that word actually means something. Libertarians always maximize freedom. Members of the other parties have nothing more in common with each other than they are both rooting for the same team.

But who is Phil Maymin to run

Continued on next page

GOP tries to keep sheriff candidate off the ballot

VOTERS WHO THOUGHT they’d get an opportunity to choose the next sheriff in Colorado’s Arapahoe County might need to think again. Thanks to Nancy Doty, the Republican Clerk and Recorder for the county, they don’t have to worry about making that decision anymore; she’s trying to make it for them.

Citing a state election law that requires minor political party candidates to be unaffiliated with the Republican Party for at least 12 months, Doty has removed Libertarian Ken Waters from the general election ballot. By eliminating Waters from the race, she has cleared all of the opposition for her fellow Republican, Grayson Robinson, which will guarantee his second consecutive default victory in that office. According to state LP officials, it’s easy to see who this unconstitutional law is designed to protect.

Libertarians claim the Republican clerk seems to have delayed her protest of Waters’ candidacy for over two months to ensure that he would have no realistic option of obtaining access to the

ballot by any other means.

Waters wonders if Doty is aware that she is violating a Colorado statute which requires her protest to be made in writing 5 days after she received his Certificate of Designation by Assembly. According to Colorado Libertarians, it was made 63 days afterwards.

On receiving the notice, Waters stated, “It’s sad to see what lengths the GOP will go to protect it’s incumbents from our democratic process. ‘A government of the people’ used to be a Republican hallmark, now that slogan is being replaced with ‘A government of their party.’”

Since the state law specifies a nomination shall be deemed valid when it lacks a protest within the 5-day timeframe, Waters is contesting Doty’s decision. He says he believes the people should have the final say in electing a candidate, not some clerk.

Waters stated “This is the beginning of the end, when our government starts telling us who we can and can’t vote for. Saddam Hussein received about 99% of the vote in Iraq, and look how wonderful that turned out.”

Information about the Waters for Sheriff campaign is located at www.politicalgateway.com/cand.php?id=429.

Guthrie opens campaign office in Seattle

ON AUGUST 18, volunteers and supporters joined Washington LP U.S. Senate candidate Bruce Guthrie in celebrating the opening of a new campaign headquarters in Seattle.

As a highlight, medical marijuana activist Steve Kubby appeared as a guest speaker. Kubby co-authored California’s Proposition 215, which effectively legalized medicinal use of marijuana in that state. The issue of medical freedom, including the legalization of alternative and naturopathic treatments, is a key part of Bruce Guthrie’s campaign.

According to Guthrie’s campaign manager, Travis Wright, the new headquarters will serve as a space for volunteer activities, public forums, and to coordinate expanding statewide activities. Wright explains, “As we move into the post-primary phase of our campaign, this new location will become critical to getting Bruce’s message of Peace, Hope, and Freedom to the voters of Washington.”

The headquarters is located at 12511 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98133.



■ Although he’s running unopposed for the Libertarian nomination for November, Missouri’s U.S. Senate candidate Frank Gilmour didn’t take a summer vacation during the primary season

Continued from Page 6

against such established machine politicians as Shays/Farrell? Is Maymin a spurned Republican or a disappointed Democrat? No. Phil Maymin has been a Libertarian his whole life, for as long as he can remember. The Maymin family immigrated from Communist Russia when Phil was five, because they were looking for liberty. Phil has worked in the free market his whole life. He graduated Harvard University with both a Bachelor's and a Master's. He has also successfully proposed his Ph.D. in finance at the University of Chicago. Maymin is a founder of his own financial management firm.

Maymin is now running on the Libertarian ticket because it is the party of principle. And the principle is what it has always been: "the foundation of authority is in the free consent of the people."

Nearly four hundred years ago, Connecticut led the world by writing down principles that were not to be violated, principles of freedom that government dare not encroach on. Now Connecticut can lead again by sending a representative to D.C. who understands that the proper role of government is securing the rights and freedoms of the people. Maymin is opposed to the launching of offensive wars as well as redistributing income to special interest groups. He'd like to put an end to legislating what faucets and toilets people may have in their own bathrooms.

For more information, visit Maymin's campaign Website at www.MayminForCongress.com, where there are several ways you can participate. In addition to standard political fare of volunteer sign up and contribution forms, the website also provides other features. Maymin's site enables people to upload personal digital photographs, participate in a free and open public forum, add to the list of Libertarian quotes and provide examples of invasive government.

Two Libertarian candidates running unopposed in Colorado

Now here's the kind of election news we like to hear: both Sheriff Bill Masters and County Coroner Bob Dempsey are running unopposed for reelection in November as Libertarians in San Miguel County, Colorado.

Libertarian Leadership School

ANNOUNCING A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN LIBERTARIAN EDUCATION!

The Libertarian Leadership School (LLS) is an exciting online university designed specifically to train Libertarian Party affiliates, campaigns and members.

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Electives

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The next semester begins in October.
The LLS is open to all members of the Libertarian Party.
Courses will last a minimum of six weeks
and require a significant time commitment from students.
To enroll in the LLS or for more information, e-mail lls@lp.org.

Don't delay! Space is limited and classes are filling quickly!

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Rock Howard's State Senate race in Texas

WHILE BADNARIK AND SMITHER GET THE EARLY HEADLINES for their congressional races, the best opportunity in Texas for a Libertarian breakthrough in a partisan race this November could be Rock Howard's State Senate race in the Austin area.

Howard is in a two-way race against Austin's former mayor, a non-incumbent Democrat with a track record in opposition to the progressive mindset of the typical Austin voter.

Howard explains, "My opponent was the biggest dispenser of corporate welfare in the country when he served as Mayor. My stance against corporate welfare and against corporate control of the government is winning me votes from my opponent's base while strengthening my credentials with fiscal conservatives.

My campaign strategist is the well liked former city councilman Max Nofziger. He gives me instant credibility with Austin's progressive voters and has helped me frame my issues for them without asking me to compromise my principles in any way."

There are several hot button issues affecting this campaign and Howard is on the popular side of them. Meanwhile, his opponent is refusing to take a stand on these issues. Both candidates participated in a joint public forum in May, providing video evidence that Howard's opponent is side-stepping the issues.

Howard's campaign has hired a full-time paid campaign manager and produced a popular concert-style campaign poster that is displayed in store windows throughout Austin. The campaign is planning radio and TV spots to further spread their locally popular political message.

Moseley racking up endorsements

Mark Moseley, running for Texas State Representative in District 112, has been racking up the endorsements. Moseley has been supported by Independent Texans, a non-partisan grassroots election reform group; independent candidate for Governor Carole Strayhorn; the Texas chapter of Americans for Prosperity; and a local minority business

association in Richardson and Garland. About the last endorsement, Moseley said, "I am proud to be the candidate who will represent the voters in my district that are so often overlooked by their 'special-interest only' State Representative. I recognize that real economic development starts with the small business owners and runs strong in all cultures of the community."

For more information, visit www.matthewmoseley.org.

Singing her way to Juneau City Assembly

Sara Chambers, running for the Juneau AK City Assembly in District 2, found a novel way to make public appearances on the campaign trail. She recently was chosen to sing the national anthem at local football game. Besides being active in her community in more traditional ways, such as founding juneauparents.com, a local parenting support group, Chambers also gets known around town as a musician.

"I am hoping my race will be a good model for others at the local and state level," Chambers said. "What I am doing is very doable in lots of places and can be replicated under the right conditions."

Additional information can be found at www.sarachambers.com.

Schlosser running television ads

David Schlosser, running for Congress in Arizona's First District, has made a \$5,500 ad buy, about 500 commercials in total, for the last two weeks of the primary season. Schlosser's ads will run on all the cable systems in the district as well as the nightly news programs on both of the district's broadcast outlets.

Schlosser said his ads "should exceed the advertising of four of the five Democrats."

The campaign has also finished production on the last of our four campaign commercials this week, "Resistance," which can be seen both on his website at www.schlosserforcongress.com as well as on YouTube.

Schlosser is running against incumbent Republican Rick Renzi and a field of Democrats for the hotly contested seat being watched nationally.

AFFILIATE NEWS

ARIZONA: Taxpayers disproportionately choose Libertarian Party

ARIZONA VOTERS are donating a considerable amount of money to the Libertarian Party. According to voter data from Ballot Access News, one percent of Arizona voters are Libertarian, but five percent of income tax check-off program money goes toward the Libertarian Party.

Check-off programs are boxes on state income tax forms where a voter checks a box to donate their money to a specific state program such as a political party. Libertarians are doing well in this category.

In comparison to the two main political parties -- Democrats and Republicans -- there is a gap between check-off preference and voter registration. According to the same Ballot Access News data, close to 40 percent of Arizona voters are registered Republican, but only 37 percent of check-off funds go toward Republicans.

Richard Winger, editor and publisher of *Ballot Access News*, said that Arizona taxpayers are disproportionately more pro-Libertarian than Democrat or Republican.

"What you are looking at is independents who want to vote Libertarian," said Barry Hess, Libertarian candidate for Governor of Arizona. Hess said many of the Arizona's independents -- who make up 25 percent of registered voters -- decide to give check-off money to the Libertarian Party.

"It's obvious the Libertarian philosophy exceeds registered affiliation," said Hess. "On the ground here we can see it plainly."

CALIFORNIA: Libertarians take positions on ballot initiatives

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF CALIFORNIA has taken a position on the November ballot initiatives. It supports the governor's reform initiatives -- Props. 74-77 -- and opposes Props. 78, 79 and 80. The LPC

took no position on Prop. 73.

"The governor's reform initiatives are good for California and for its citizens," said Aaron Starr, chairman of the Libertarian Party of California. "More reform is necessary, but they all are a step in the right direction.

"As for the competing prescription drug initiatives, each would mean either higher overall drug costs or higher taxes, and probably both. You are supposed to vote for Prop. 78 to stop the passage of Prop. 79. We see no point in playing that game.

"And finally, Prop. 80 is not a viable solution to whatever perceived problem its sponsors are trying to solve. California's regulatory environment is ultimately responsible for there being insufficient electrical generation and distribution capacity in the state, and has brought California's primary energy companies to the brink of bankruptcy—and beyond. More government is not a fitting solution to a government failure."

FLORIDA: Republicans and Democrats ducking the issues

KARL DICKEY, the LP candidate for State Senate in Florida's 30th District stated, "I don't understand what my opponents are afraid of when they fail to fill out publicly available position surveys."

Dickey is referring specifically to Project Vote Smart's NPAT and the Florida Catholics candidate survey. Both of these surveys are non-partisan and indicate the position of each of the candidates, yet Dickey's opponents aren't turning in the surveys..

He added, "When we have these candidate forums, my opponents choose not to talk about issues, but about cruises and corned beef sandwiches. When are we going to start talking about specific issues in this campaign? It is clear my opponents want to white-wash the issues of their campaigns and here is a perfect way for them to show the public where they stand, yet they both choose to talk about issues of little concern to the people of our district. We need a state senator in Tallahassee that is not afraid to state where he stands on any particular issue, which is why I have filled out those surveys, enabling the public to decide and be informed."

MICHIGAN: Candidate polling data published

IN A SIGN OF THE TIMES of voter dissatisfaction and lack of a political home, the Libertarian Party is polling well in Michigan. Greg Cresswell (www.gregcresswell.org), a candidate for governor, and Leonard Schwartz (www.leonardschwartz.us), a candidate for U.S. Senate, are polling at six percent and eight percent statewide as of recent surveys.

The party is in a unique position because of proposal 2, the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, which is similar to what was passed in California through the Ward Connerly group. The initiative would amend the state's constitution to eliminate the use of race or sex for college admissions of government contracts. The Libertarian Party is the only political organization favoring the measure despite broad public support.

All Libertarian candidates expect to capitalize on this year's ballot proposal and the rise of voters looking for a new choice. Scotty Boman, chair of the Michigan Libertarian Party says, "This has all the makings for a very exciting year and large growth for the LP in Michigan."

Survey link: <http://www.surveyusa.com/electionpolls.aspx>.

NEVADA:

State party increasing both membership and outreach

The Nevada Libertarian Party's 1776 Brigade is designed to increase the number of organized counties, increase the number of national sustaining members from Nevada, increase the funding of county parties, propel themselves to permanent ballot access and make the Libertarian Party the majority governing party of Nevada.

Aside from helping the cause of Liberty, members also gain access to a member's only portion of www.LPNevada.org, a subscription to their exclusive quarterly newsletter the 'Brigade Bugle', and discounts on everything the state party sells including convention tickets. Membership in their 1776 Brigade doubled in August.

For the 2006 campaign,

Continued on next page

Continued from Page 8

they printed 100,000 full color glossy brochures, featuring all of their candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and the Nevada State Assembly.

Their Cross Roads Rallies are an opportunity to take advantage of really bad traffic patterns in Las Vegas. The Nevada LP has signs, flags, at least one megaphone, refreshments and plenty of campaign brochures. When motorists stop at the light, candidates introduce themselves to the voters and pass out our brochures. These rallies were effective last election cycle and they are expected to be even more successful this election.

Activists volunteering to work these rallies receive a free Cross Road Rally t-shirt designed both for safety and to express a specific campaign message. Rallies have been scheduled every Wednesday and Saturday between September 9th and Election Day. The Nevada LP is also holding four rallies on Cross Roads Weekend, the weekend immediately preceding the election.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Libertarians praise court ruling on ballot order

ON AUGUST 17 the New Hampshire Supreme Court issued a decision in *Akins v. Secretary of State*. This case challenged current law which always puts the winning party first on the ballot.

The court ruled that the law did not pass strict scrutiny and is thus unconstitutional under the New Hampshire Constitution. This reversed an earlier decision by the state Superior Court and party affiliation or past election results will no longer provide an advantage on the ballot.

"We are quite pleased at the results. Election laws should be fair to all with no advantage to any one particular party or individual. We look forward to other election law changes that would level the playing field in accordance with Article 11 of the Bill of Rights in New Hampshire Constitution," said LPNH chairman John Babiarz.

NEW YORK: GOP tries blocking Libertarian candidates

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK STATE CHAIR RICHARD COOPER reports that general objections have been filed against both the statewide Libertarian petition and that for Eric Sundwall in the 20th Congressional District.

Cooper asks "Are the Republicans and lobbyist John Faso desperate to keep the Libertarians out of the race? They know we won't hesitate to expose Republicans as deceiving the public with less government rhetoric and big government practice."

The 20th District seat held by Republican John Sweeney is thought to be one of the more competitive this year.

A GOP Town leader from north of NYC approached Libertarian Party gubernatorial candidate John Clifton with a proposition: Clifton should publicly praise Faso for his conservative stands on gun control and other issues.

According to Cooper's report, the GOP leader sought an endorsement in all but name from the competition. Undisclosed future benefits would result. Clifton was not interested. He declined to name this political activist he has known for some time.

Cooper says the same person tried to have the Libertarians nominate Faso when Weld dropped out of the race. The approach took place at a recent gathering of the Foundation for Economic Education in Irvington-on-Hudson. Cooper declared that "This refusal by Libertarian gubernatorial candidate John Clifton to play political games shows that the Libertarian Party is the Party of Principle."

Cooper noted that Comptroller candidate John Cain from Congress in Rockland County wore a microphone for investigators when offered a bribe, resulting in convictions. Besides Cain and Clifton, the New York Libertarians are running Jeffrey Russell for US Senate, Donald Silberberger for Lt. Governor, and Christopher Garvey for Attorney-General.

On the Congressional line, the Libertarians are running Michael Sylvia in the 24th District and Dr. Steve Finger in the 11th District.



■ LNC Chair Bill Redpath between South Park's Trey Parker and Matt Stone

TEXAS: Polling data cited as reason for debate exclusion; candidate was never polled

TEXAS NEWS ORGANIZATIONS sponsoring the televised governor debate on October 6 have singled out Libertarian James Werner for exclusion.

"This is wrong, and it's a real shame," said Libertarian Party of Texas (LPT) Executive Director Wes Benedict. "This would be a great opportunity for voters to hear from all five candidates in an equal forum, but the debate sponsors have chosen to muffle the Libertarian candidate."

The *Dallas Morning News* reported that Werner would be excluded because he "had not reached the required threshold in polls."

Benedict continued, "The problem is the way polls are being used to discriminate. Most of the polls are commissioned by news organizations, and the polls do not even include James Werner as an option. Then the news organizations exclude him from the debate because he isn't polling high enough. It's such an unfair catch-22, you almost have to laugh."



■ Georgia Libertarian activists killed a major tax bill. Full details on the front cover.

In need of a few good words

BOTH *LP NEWS* AND *LP.ORG* are in need of your assistance. We would like to provide more coverage from your state and from your campaigns and you are the people who can channel this vital information to the national office.

Every month, we'd like to have a lot more information in the "Affiliate News" section of *LP News*. As it is a lot more difficult for us to know what is happening in your area, we often miss covering important issues and projects on which you have spent so much time and effort.

If you would be so kind as to provide suitable information in two to three paragraph segments (of no more than 250 words), we would be happy to publish this information. If there is more than one project or issue, please feel free to submit as many as reasonable using the same guideline.

We'll need this sort of information every month as part of our attempt to make *LP News* more relevant to subscribers in your state.

Also, we need campaign news for next month's *LP News* edition, which will be featuring current Libertarian campaigns for public office this election cycle. The deadline for these submissions will be September 22.

Here are the general guidelines for submission:

- For statewide races such as Governor, Secretary of State or U.S. Senator, please limit the article to 1,000 words.
- For congressional races, please limit the article to 750 words.
- For state legislative and similar races which cover a region of a state, please limit your content to 500 words.
- For most local races, please limit your content to 300 words.
- Be sure to provide objective data, when possible. If your campaign is polling at 5% and the opposition is running neck-and-neck, this is a great angle.
- Please don't overly hype a campaign. A campaign that is polling at 1% is probably not going to win and we're not going to present it that way.
- Relevant quotations from the candidate are always suitable.
- Providing information about endorsements,

fundraising goals attained, advertising conducted and quotations from the mainstream media will improve your chances for publication.

Please submit your local, state and campaign articles to media@lp.org for inclusion in *LP News*.

DID YOU MISS YOUR COPY OF LP NEWS?

Please give us a call at (202) 333-0008 so we can update your contact information or send you another copy.

Op Ed

Changes at LP News

WE HAVE DECIDED that it's time to make some significant changes to *LP News*. To begin, we've changed the nameplate to reflect the new logo of the Libertarian Party.

We've been forced to drop paid advertising for two reasons. The first is that some of the advertisements could be in potential conflict with FEC regulations. The other reason is the amount of revenue generated doesn't cover the employee and contractor time required to ensure the highest of quality advertising product available.

We'd like for *LP News* to be more outreach oriented than it has been in the past. Previously, our publication has covered controversial issues even within the libertarian movement, leading to public debate which neither helps Libertarians get elected nor provides a pleasant public face for the Libertarian Party. For this reason, we've at least temporarily eliminated the letters section.

We would like to give you some indication of where we'd like to take *LP News* over the next few months. It's our goal that each issue will cause a reader who is not currently a member of the Libertarian Party to ponder:

1) Hey, these Libertarians think almost like I do.

2) These Libertarians are busy working hard on the ideas I find most important.

3) Here's what I can do to help these Libertarians out.

It's election season right now, so expect to see more election related articles. Once the election wrap-ups are over, expect to see more issue-oriented material as well as updates from our elected officials. One idea being considered is a theme of "Governing as a Libertarian."

We plan to have specific themes for some upcoming issues. As an example, we'll be highlighting all of our hotter races next month. If you are a party official or work on a campaign staff, please be sure to send us the latest update from your campaign. Please read page 9 for submission guidelines.

The redesign is an evolving process, so please bear with us as we make additional changes over the next few months.

Like many of you, we love hair-splitting debate over philosophical and political issues. However, the mission of the Libertarian Party is to elect LP candidates to public office and direct public policy in a libertarian or libertarian-leaning direction. It's time to utilize the official publication of the Libertarian Party toward this end. Hopefully, future editions of *LP News* will be something you'll be able to pass on to your friends, neighbors and co-workers as an effective outreach tool. Feel free to give us a call at 202-333-0008 to request additional copies.

Uniting Libertarians

by Michael Badnarik

THE THEME for this year's convention in Portland was "Uniting Voters". Uniting the voters is really our second priority. Our first step must be to make sure we are uniting Libertarians.

I am happy to report that our spirit of party unity is flourishing. More importantly, it is flourishing in direct proportion to our collective level of optimism.

Although it's not an explicit duty of the presidential nominee, ever since Atlanta I have assumed the responsibility of party morale officer. I have taken it upon myself to change the hearts and minds of Libertarians.

In February I attended the Nevada and California state conventions, and I began my presen-

tations by asking people to raise their hands if they thought I would win my congressional seat. Not surprisingly, no one was willing to bet on victory. However, after explaining the circumstances of the election, and the early fundraising success of the campaign, the same question elicited a positive response from 50% of the audience!

Early in my opening address in Portland, I posed the same question to the national delegates. Much to my surprise, the audience STARTED with 50% being able to imagine a Libertarian victory in November. By the time I was finished, no less than 95% of the delegates were expressing confidence that I would win the election! The audience gave me a



While Russmo is taking some time off, this classic seems to apply as much today as when it was first published rousing standing ovation, clearly motivated by my personal sense of optimism.

There are lots of good reasons for my optimism. First, the attitude of the voters in Texas has shifted 180 degrees in the last six years. During my 2000 campaign for state rep, I would hand out brochures wherever I could. People would examine my literature, then ask the inevitable question: "Are you a Republican or Democrat?" When I informed them that I was a Libertarian, they would shove the brochure back at me in disgust, as if I had just tried to slip them a three-dollar bill.

This year after "brochure, question, Libertarian," their reaction is what you'd expect of someone who's just discovered a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Their eyes widen, they are absolutely jubilant, and they generally ask for a stack of additional brochures that they can distribute to friends, family, and coworkers. People are now thrilled to have someone to vote for other than "the lesser of two evils".

Several unexpected factors have also turned in our favor. Our [Texas] gubernatorial candidate has been officially excluded from the debates in an animated four-way race for the top of the ballot. The Republican incumbent faces a Democrat and two high-profile independent candidates; this has generated a great deal of political posturing in Texas. James Werner, our Libertarian candidate, has been using his exclusion from the debates to raise awareness of the LP, and to highlight the blatantly biased prerequisites

for being included in the political process.

Many people feel that the Republican Party is in the process of self-destructing, as exemplified by Tom Delay's recent exodus from House District 22. After the Democrats filed a lawsuit successfully preventing the Republicans from replacing Delay's name on the ballot, Libertarian Bob Smither finds himself in a defacto two-way race against a Democrat in a heavily Republican district. This stroke of luck is helping to build political synergy in central Texas, especially since Smither and Ron Paul have districts adjacent to my own.

Success breeds success. Although I have been incessantly criticized for having the audacity to express optimism about winning my campaign, that optimism has resulted in over \$350,000 in contributions. The Democratic candidate in my race has raised less than \$50,000 for his campaign, and the Republican incumbent is still paying off campaign debt from 2004.

We know we can win this election. Certainly, if you think you can't, then you are defeated before you even start.

The Founding Fathers inspire us, almost on a daily basis. However, I would like to remind you that they were not gods. They were human beings. They were not extraordinary people – they were ordinary people doing extraordinary things. I invite you to make 2006 an extraordinary year. I invite you to join me in my optimism. Together we can make 2006 "The Year of the Libertarian".

LP introduces: "Candidate Tracker"

A POLITICAL PARTY is defined by its candidates. Contesting elections is what political parties do and our candidates always have the first and best opportunity to get the Libertarian message in the media and in front of the voters.

As part of our program to provide tactical support to our Libertarian candidates, the Candidate Tracker project is designed to give us hard data about how they are performing on the campaign trail. By tracking information such as media appearances and campaign funds raised, we intend to discover more precisely what activities will result in higher vote totals.

Every two years, we recruit hundreds of people to run for office under the Libertarian Party banner. These candidates accomplish much in spreading the Libertarian message and gain valuable experience we need to make this party grow. But when the campaign is over, for the most part, all this knowledge and experience goes with them. The Candidate Tracker project is a first step in capturing all that valuable information to build upon it for future campaigns.

Beyond building a storehouse of institutional memory, this project also attempts to empirically measure how our candidates are doing during the election. It will alert us to exciting Libertarian

See Candidate Tracker Page 11

Writing more effective press releases for your campaign or affiliate

by Stephen Gordon

OFTENTIMES I FIND MYSELF in conversation with other people about what content should be provided in a press release. The most common issue is over whether the information presented is actually of interest to the average reader. Quite simply, many issues which are important to libertarians don't register with the media or the general population. Of the ten steps provided by Press-Release-Writing.com, the most important to them is: "Make sure the information is newsworthy."

Another issue is action. Thomas Knapp has written many press releases for libertarian political activities. Often I'll submit a release for his review or ask him to write one

Candidate Tracker

Continued from Page 10

campaigns that might otherwise not receive the attention and recognition they deserve, and allow the national party to do a better job of promoting all of our candidates.

The data provided by our campaigns will be tallied in a score weighted by district size, so a strong local candidate has the same opportunity to make an impression as a high-profile congressional candidate. The Candidate Tracker database will eventually be connected to the Ballot Base project to make the delivery of tactical support for the national party to our candidates more efficient.

We aren't just collecting a bunch of numbers. The candidate surveys also look for factors such as community service prior to the election, military service, issue penetration and any other more intangible experiences our candidates think are important. After the election results are in, we'll be able to compare all the data, tangible and intangible, against the reality of vote totals. This will allow the national party to keep on improving the support we provide to those fighting for liberty on the front lines of electoral battle.

In some significant ways, we must study how our opponents win elections and learn from their example. However, we also understand that a Libertarian campaign requires a very different approach from our Democrat and Republican counterparts. The Candidate Tracker project will allow us to discern at a very detailed level exactly what we should do the same as our opponents and what we need to do differently.

If you have any questions or feedback about the Candidate Tracker project, feel free to contact Sean Haugh at seanhaugh@lp.org.

and he refuses my request because there was not significant action in the release. Newspapers don't report on libertarian philosophy, so why send them essays and theses disguised as press releases? Send them information about an event or activity and they are much more likely to cover it.

Here is Knapp's general advice for obtaining media coverage as a result of a press release:

1. The purpose of a press release is to get press coverage. Really. Regardless of how important and interesting you or your candidate think the release material is, if the journalist who receives it doesn't agree that it's important and interesting, the release was either done poorly or not worth doing in the first place.

2. If there's no action, there's no basis for a release. The press usually doesn't care what your candidate thinks. The press MAY care what your candidate DOES.

3. In line with the two items above: Don't be the Boy Who Cried Wolf. If you bury journalists in press releases with no story potential, your releases are going to end up in the trash -- including the one that DID have story potential.

4. A good release COULD be -- and I've seen it happen -- printed verbatim as a story. It includes an engaging headline, the who, when, where, how and why, a pull quote or two and a snappy close. A good release also leaves enough out -- for brevity's sake if nothing else -- to make an interested reporter want to know more.

5. Timing the release correctly can be as important as writing it well. If you have something really, truly hot, and if you have good connections in the press, hold your release until you've offered one of the bigger fish an "exclusive." In one case, a campaign I worked was able to bargain our way to the top of the front page of the region's biggest newspaper by agreeing to hold our release until after deadline for the early evening TV newscasts ... none of which were likely to bite anyway.

Another critical issue is the title. An article from Stetson University indicates their most important aspect of a good press release:

"The Headline: In about ten words -- or less -- you need to grab the attention of the editor. The headline should summarize the information in the press re-

lease, but in a way that is exciting and dynamic; think of it as a billboard along a highway -- you have just a few words to make your release stand out among the many others editors receive on any given day."

Again, Knapp is a master at titling. Here is a short list of some of the creative titles he has come up with:

- There's gold in them thar states
- We're here, we're queer ... and we're voting Libertarian
- Once More into the Breach
- A Modest Proposal
- Across the Divide
- With Friends Like This
- Choices, not echoes, in shadow of GOP convention
- Permit? We don't need no stinkin' permit!
- Badnarik Wonders if Bush and Feinstein Know the Meaning of "Infringe"
- Fool Me Once, Shame on You; Fool Me Twice, Shame on Me
- Lighting the fires of liberty, one monitor at a time

Of course, not all titles have to have literary references, and sometimes a simple description of the action works very well. Some recent ones either Knapp or I have written include:

- Alabama Libertarians Unveil New Internet Community
- Bodenhause Declares for Birmingham District Two Council Seat
- A majority of Americans disapprove of the Republican and Democrat conventions
- Russo releasing TV commercials urging Americans to resist military draft
- Media Advisory: Presidential debate in NYC on August 31, 2004

Style is important. I generally prefer the inverted pyramid style but sometimes vary from it slightly depending upon the content. Also, it is important to consider your target audience when writing a release. My choice of wording varies significantly when I am targeting the local press from when I wish to be picked up by national libertarian media sources.

PR.com provides that a press release should be around 400 words long and never more than one page. Generally, the only exception I make to that rule is when I have to include additional information. As an example, when polling data are the topic of a release, I may cover the basic polling numbers in the press release and attach the

cross-tabs for further reference.

The Stetson University guide has what is perhaps the most important advice I would suggest to libertarians writing press releases:

"Editors will quickly trash media releases that make outlandish promotional promises -- 'the best ever,' 'everyone wins,' 'one-of-a-kind,' 'changing humankind forever.' You get the idea. Instead, press release writers must think like a reporter. Media releases must follow journalistic style in order to be given any kind of consideration."

Thinking like an editor and making the job as easy as possible for the reporter has always provided the best results for me. To see how this works, I'll provide a recent press release I've written and follow up with an example of the results.

From the press release:

Alabama Libertarians Unveil New Internet Community

The Libertarian Party of Alabama recently launched a new website. Utilizing open source technology, the site promises to become an online community for libertarians throughout the state.

Birmingham, AL (PRWEB) November 15, 2005 -- The Libertarian Party of Alabama (LPA) unveiled its new website over the weekend. The major redesign of the political website at <http://al.lp.org> provides a wide variety of state-of-the-art features intended to provide an Internet community for libertarians throughout the state.

"The new site serves several unique purposes," stated newly elected LPA Chair James Hines. "In addition to the obvious grassroots outreach opportunity, we've added blogs, a detailed event calendar which even routes the user to a Yahoo! Map, and provides mechanisms for RSVPing and volunteering for events. I'm really excited about the press center, which provides easy access to our spokespeople, press releases, and recent news specifically for members of the media."

LPA Vice Chair and Internet media veteran Stephen Gordon leads both a web development team and a separate team of content providers. Gordon's previous Internet activities have been covered by a wide range of media, including C-Net's news.com, C-SPAN, AP wires, MediaPost, Slate, and a considerable variety of websites.

The revised site utilizes a product called CivicSpace, which is an open-source community organizing process and software platform. According to Gordon, "We used an open source backbone for our site because we believe that the politics,

like the Internet, should remain an open source project. People should be allowed access to every level of our government, without the authoritarian top-down approaches taken by the larger political parties."

Additional information about CivicSpace may be found <http://civicspacelabs.org>. To experience the recently updated Libertarian Party of Alabama web portal, please visit <http://al.lp.org>.

Here's one example of the media coverage as a result of the release:

Alabama Libertarian Party Unveils New Web site

The Libertarian Party of Alabama has recently launched a new Website. LPA Chairman James Hines detailed some of the features of the new site in a press release.

"The new site serves several unique purposes. In addition to the obvious grassroots outreach opportunity, we've added blogs, a detailed event calendar which even routes the user to a Yahoo! Map, and provides mechanisms for RSVPing and volunteering for events. "The new site comes complete with a new press center to get the party's message out to the media.

LPA Vice Chair Stephen Gordon and head of the web development team says the site used open-source products for the new effort. "We used an open-source backbone for our site because we believe that the politics, like the Internet, should remain an open source project. People should be allowed access to every level of our government, without the authoritarian top-down approaches taken by the larger political parties."

Visit <http://al.lp.org> for more information.

Note that I made it very easy for the writer to develop his/her story, and by doing so was able to provide better control of the final product.

It is not enough to simply write and distribute a press release. Style and content are critical to the success of your efforts. Many of you are great writers and hopefully this will help you use your skills to more effectively promote your favorite libertarian cause or campaign.

Here are some recommended reference materials available for further reading: www.pr.com/article/1029, www.press-release-writing.com/10_essential_tips.htm and www.stetson.edu/~rhansen/prhowto.html.

Stephen Gordon teaches Campaign Management and Advanced Campaign Management at the Libertarian Leadership School, from where this material was adapted. Additional information about the LLS is available at www.lp.org/lls/.

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UPCOMING

September 12, 2006

The Cato Institute will be hosting a policy forum called "Overkill: The Rise of Paramilitary Police Raids in America" at 12:00 PM, with a luncheon to follow. It will feature the author Radley Balko, Policy Analyst, Cato Institute, with comments by Norm Stamper, Seattle Police Chief (Ret.) and author of *Breaking Rank: A Top Cop's Exposé of the Dark Side of Policing*. The event will held at the Cato Institute, located at 1000 Massachusetts Avenue, NW in Washington, DC. For additional information, please email events@cato.org.

September 15-November 7, 2006

Ballot Base should be fully functional in the middle of September. Your volunteer time can be worth a lot of candidate votes on Election Day! For more information, please visit <http://BallotBase.org> or give us a call at (202)333-0072.

September 23, 2006

The Libertarian Party of Massachusetts will be holding it's convention at Tweed's Restaurant on Grove Street in Worcester. The business meeting will be conducted from 10 AM to noon and there will be lunchtime speakers from noon until 1:15 PM. For additional information, please visit <http://lpma.org> or call George Phillips at (508) 754-1859.

October 5, 2006

The Heartland Institute will be holding their Twenty-Second Anniversary Benefit Dinner in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago Hotel. Richard A. Epstein, Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, and Robert A. Sirico, co-founder and president of the Acton Institute, will be speaking. The event costs \$100 (or \$150 at the door). For additional information, please contact Latonya Harris at (312) 377-4000 or harris@heartland.org.

October 27-28, 2006

The Ludwig von Mises Institute will be hosting "Imperialism: Enemy of Freedom: Supporter's Summit 2006" in Auburn, Alabama. The price of the conference is \$195 for sessions, breaks, and a closing reception on Saturday. An additional \$45 covers the black-tie reception and dinner on Friday at the Marriot Conference Center of the Grand National. At this gala event, the Gary G. Schlarbaum Award will be presented to Hans-Hermann Hoppe. For additional information, please call (334)321-2100 or visit <http://mises.org>.

November 7, 2006

Election Day! In addition to getting out and voting, this is a great day to assist your local Libertarian campaign by manning a polling place to hold signs or pass out push cards. You might consider working as an election observer or becoming more involved in your community as a poll worker.

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FIRST WORD

"The Libertarian Party is, in effect, to the right to the Republicans on economic matters, and to the left on social issues.

On the whole, for example, the Libertarian Party opposes most government spending except for the military and the courts. As a practical matter, though, the party acknowledges that some programs - such as Social Security - can't be eliminated outright.

Frank Gilmour, 50, of Manchester, is the state Libertarian Party's nominee for the U.S. Senate. When he's not at his job in vehicle fleet maintenance, he's on the road. Gilmour's key message has been what he views as "the irresponsible spending" by the Bush administration and Congress.

"I'm trying to get some sanity back in our spending," said Gilmour, who blasts the continued federal budget deficits and the growing national debt." - *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, August 24, 2006